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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER G06F9/312 IPC 7 G06F9/345 G06F9/38 According to International Palent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G06F IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 590 353 A (SAKAKIBARA TADAYUKI ET 1-8 AL) 31 December 1996 (1996-12-31) column 10, line 13 - line 56 column 15, line 15 -column 16, line 55 WO 01 98893 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS 1,2,4,5, X NV : PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NA (US)) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) page 11, 7 ine 28 -page 12, 1 ine 30 Α US 5 155 823 A (TSUE YOSHIKI) 13 October 1992 (1992-10-13) Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Χ Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive slep when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral clisclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 12/11/2003 5 November 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized Officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Daskalakis, T

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